

WILDLIFE TIPS AND BRIEFS

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NOTE TO EDITOR: Items with a local slant are arranged by States, beginning on page 2, but many of these may also be of some general interest. See SHORT FILLERS ON PAGE 19.

Wildlife Sanctuary Areas Increase In Thirty States

The "reserved for wildlife" sign has gone up on more than 250,000 acres of land in 30 States since Federal aid in wildlife restoration began, the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, recently reported.

There are refuges, breeding grounds, sanctuaries of all types, sizes, and descriptions added to the holdings of the various State game departments, Albert M. Day, Service official, pointed out.

With the aid of Federal funds provided under the Pittman-Robertson Act, some States have provided winter range to help prevent mass starvation of deer and elk. Others have acquired marshes suitable for migratory wildfowl, for muskrats, and other fur animals. Still others have set aside uplands for wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, or white-tailed deer. There are areas set aside for ringneck pheasants, sage grouse, quails, beavers, squirrels, antelopes, and in fact virtually all of the desirable mammals and birds.

Each State has decided upon its own refuge program, the Fish and Wildlife Service merely serving to help keep all transactions within the terms of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, which provides for a Federal contribution of 75 percent of the cost of approved projects.

"Not only are States able to expand their lands devoted to wildlife conservation," said Mr. Day. "They also receive help in developing them so that they will produce a maximum quantity of such wildlife. Planting shrubs, trees, and grasses and providing food and shelter; constructing quarters for refuge keepers; posting boundaries; providing fire controls; and dozens of other operations are carried on."

Maintenance is up to the States, which own the lands.

Wildlife conservation acreages obtained by the various States under this program so far are as follows:

Alabama, 798; Arizona, 4,100; Colorado, 14,400; Florida, 21,000; Idaho, 4,600; Illinois, 1,700; Indiana, 1,400; Iowa, 1,700; Kansas, 330; Kentucky, 3,225; Maryland, 1,600; Michigan, 13,650; Minnesota, 2,200; Missouri, 5,530; New Mexico, 5,840; New York, 1,800; North Carolina, 10,140; North Dakota, 1,280; Ohio, 4,600; Pennsylvania, 41,450; South Carolina, 5,800; South Dakota, 2,800; Tennessee, 17,650; Utah, 15,100; Washington, 28,800; West Virginia, 15,900; Wisconsin, 8,100; Wyoming, 4,300.

ALABAMA

Over 2,000 Mourning Doves Banded By Allen M. Pearson

More than 2,000 mourning doves in Alabama were tagged with numbered bands by Allen M. Pearson, leader of the Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, according to a report from Frederick C. Lincoln, in charge of banding operations for the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Dr. Pearson, recognized authority on mourning doves, is one of the leading banders of doves in the United States. Wildfowl are marked with numbered bands so that the migration routes of the birds can be traced by recording the number of the band each time a dove is taken in a licensed bird-banders trap or is killed by a hunter.

The mourning dove is the only game bird in the country that breeds in every State.

The Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, where Dr. Pearson is conducting his investigations, is financially sponsored by the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, the Alabama Fish and Game Commission, the American Wildlife Institute, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

ARIZONA

Stannard Bands 2,100 Mourning
Doves, Service Records Reveal

Carlos Stannard, of Phoenix, Ariz., banded 2,100 mourning doves from 1936 to 1940, according to a report from Frederick C. Lincoln, in charge of banding operations for the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The mourning dove is the only game bird that breeds in every State in the country. Numbered bands are placed on the legs of the feathered creatures so that migration experts can trace the flight routes of the birds by recording the number of the band each time a dove is taken in a licensed bird-bander's trap or is killed by a hunter.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials and cooperators have banded more than 3,000,000 birds of all species in the United States since 1920.

FLORIDA

Demeritt, One Of Top U. S. Bird
Banders, Tags 6,400 Mourning Doves

W.W. Demeritt, of Key West, Fla., one of the leading bird banders in the country, marked 6,400 mourning doves from 1931 to 1940, according to a recent report from Frederick C. Lincoln, in charge of banding operations for the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

"Mr. Demeritt has banded more mourning doves than any other person in the United States," Lincoln reported.

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INDIANA

Hovey Lake Attracts
Migratory Waterfowl

The welcome sign is out for migratory waterfowl at Hovey Lake, southwestern Indiana's "bit of the Old South", and ducks and geese seem to know it, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Large flocks have been reported since the State Conservation Department acquired the 900-acre area under its program of wildlife restoration with Federal aid. A refuge keeper's headquarters and a dam to control the water level have been constructed as part of the development.

The lake long has been known for valuable commercial fisheries and an abundance of fur bearers as well as waterfowl. It is a center of popular interest because a natural pecan orchard and thousands of bald cypress trees surround the lake. The trees seldom are found this far north.

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MASSACHUSETTS

Agreement Limits Baby
Haddock Fishing Quota

As the result of recent recommendations made by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, to halt the taking of small haddock on the fishing grounds off the North Atlantic coast, an agreement has been entered into between the Federated Fishing Boats of New England and New York and the Atlantic Fishermen's Union

whereby the receipts of round scrod (small haddock or cod weighing under 1-1/2 pounds each) would be limited to 10 percent of the catch.

The agreement provides that round scrod exceeding the quota will be sold and the proceeds turned over to the United War Fund. To date the the Fund has received \$1,140 from this source and the fishing boats are staying clear of the predominantly baby haddock grounds.

During July and August 1941 Service officials issued a series of warnings to all trawler captains to "stay off baby haddock grounds" or suffer serious future economic losses from the depletion of this fishery which was threatened by heavy haddock catches.

Austin Still Has Record For Leading Bird Bander

O. L. Austin still ranks among the leading bird banders in the United States, even when such comparatively rare game birds as mourning doves are considered. Dr. Austin, who has banded more birds of all species than any other American, marked 454 mourning doves in 1-1/2 years, according to a recent report from Frederick C. Lincoln, in charge of banding operations for the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

"Though this is not a top record for mourning doves," Lincoln explained, "one must remember that this species predominates in the south and is, numerically speaking, comparatively rare in Massachusetts."

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MICHIGAN

Judge Moinet Lectures Violators, Fines Deimel, Meldrum \$100 Each

Charles Deimel and Alexander Meldrum, hunting and fishing guides of Fair Haven, Michigan, recently were fined \$100 each by Federal Judge

Edward J. Moinet, at Detroit, when the two guides pleaded guilty to violating the migratory waterfowl regulations, reports the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Deimel was guilty of bootlegging wild ducks, while Meldrum pleaded guilty to aiding in the sale of wild ducks and possessing an overlimit of birds.

Before passing sentence Judge Moinet delivered a severe lecture not only on the bootlegging charges for which they were being tried but for their past activities.

The two men were apprehended by U. S. game management agents engaged in undercover operations.

MISSISSIPPI

Beaver Trappers Collect Rummage Sale Assortment

Three fish, four turtles, one muskrat, and one ear of corn were caught by Mississippi's Pittman-Robertson workers while trapping 35 beavers that were damaging farmlands. Just how the ear of corn managed to get trapped is a mystery.

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NEVADA

Game-Law Violator Is Arrested, Pays \$150 Fine 20 Minutes Later

Narcisco Matteoni, of Sparks, Nevada, has every reason to believe that the arm of the law is not only long but is speedy and packs a wallop, says the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Matteoni was hunting ducks out of season recently. Twenty minutes later he was paying Justice of the Peace F. J. Cunningham a \$150 fine. The arrest was made by Chief of Police A. J. Bassemier and Officer L. Carpenter.

Reporting the case to officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Chief Bassemier explained that late one afternoon a man called to protest that a wildfowl hunter was seen in the fields on the outskirts of Sparks.

Chief Bassemier and Officer Carpenter drove to the field in a police car and spotted Matteoni hunting wild ducks. One wild mallard was found on the side of the road, still alive, with one wing and a leg broken. A second mallard was found in the weeds, where the violator had thrown the dead bird when Officer Carpenter approached to make the arrest.

Matteoni was immediately taken to Justice Cunningham for trial. Twenty minutes after the hunter had been arrested, he was fined \$150. He paid the fine.

"This is but another instance of the excellent cooperation the Fish and Wildlife Service game agents are receiving from State and local law-enforcement agents," said W. E. Crouch, chief of the Federal agency's U. S. game management agents. "And the effectiveness of this cooperation is indicated by the fact that violations are generally decreasing throughout the country."

NEW YORK

Shad Catch In Hudson River Breaks Record

Preliminary tabulations of the 1940 Hudson River shad catch indicate that 3,106,000 pounds were taken, according to statistics of the Division of Fishery Industries, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

This catch exceeded the record production of 1937 by nearly 300,000 pounds, and was the largest catch made in this stream in over 25 years, Service figures show.

NORTH CAROLINA

More Seed Oysters Planted
At North River Oyster Farm

A second planting of 1,200 bushels of seed oysters was made during the latter part of November at the North River Demonstration Oyster Farm near Beaufort, N.C., according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The seed was obtained from natural oyster beds off Point of March on Pamlico Sound and transported by schooner to the mouth of North River. At that point the seed oysters were transferred to a barge of 500-bushel capacity from which they were distributed over selected growing areas in front of the oyster farm watchhouse. They were planted at a concentration of 250 bushels per acre in a more or less continuous strip extending from the shore towards the middle of the river. The total cost of planting was 25 cents per bushel.

The two plantings of seed oysters made to date were purposely obtained from different natural oyster beds to determine which type may show most rapid growth under the environmental conditions prevailing at North River. A small quantity of native oysters collected from this river at the site of the oyster farm showed rapid growth, attainment of excellent shape and size, and reached an average length of over 5 inches (width, 3 inches) in 3 to 4 years. Measurements and growth experiments are in progress to determine the comparative value for oyster planting of native seed and that obtained from the larger natural beds in Pamlico Sound.

Kistler Bands 355 Doves;
Leader In North Carolina

J. W. Kistler, of Raleigh, N.C., banded 355 mourning doves during the fiscal year 1941, according to a report from Frederick C. Lincoln, in charge of banding operations for the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The mourning dove is the only game bird in the country that breeds in every State. Numbered bands are placed on the legs of the feathered

creatures so that migration experts can trace the flight routes of these birds by recording the number of the band each time a dove is taken in a licensed bird-bander's trap or is killed by a hunter.

One of the leading bird banders in the country, according to Mr. Lincoln, was W. W. Demeritt, of Key West, Fla., who banded 6,398 mourning doves since 1931. In all, Fish and Wildlife Service officials and cooperators have banded more than 3,000,000 birds of all species in the United States since 1920.

OHIO

"Strip Mining" Holes Make Wildlife Havens

"Strip mining" for marl near the fields along Lake Erie, once the despair of conservationists, is being turned neatly to use at Ohio's unique wildlife sanctuary, says the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The deep holes left by steamshovels as they supplied cement plants near Sandusky are filling with water and the Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources is transforming them into a haven for migratory waterfowl as part of its Pittman-Robertson program. The surrounding marshes, watered by the underground "blue holes", are growing back into vegetation good for fur animals. Other drier lands are used for pheasants and rabbits.

The development, containing 2,166 acres, is known as Resthaven Wildlife Sanctuary.

Four other refuges are being developed in Ohio with Federal Aid Funds. In Ashtabula County, is the 438-acre New Lyme refuge to demonstrate ruffed grouse management on slash areas. Results will be checked against how the grouse thrive on lands that have not been cut over.

At Wyandot a refuge is being established for pheasants and rabbits; at Willard Marsh, one for waterfowl and pheasants; and in Williams County, one for pheasants and squirrels.

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SOUTH CAROLINA

Cultivated Oysters
Produce More Meat

Cultivated oysters grown from seed oysters planted on experimental oyster farms in South Carolina by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, may outstrip natural oysters in amount of meat, according to a recent report made by Service biologists.

A 9-bushel sample of the 1939 oyster set, which was taken to an oyster cannery at Beaufort on December 17 for processing and canning in accordance with local commercial practice, produced an average of 42.2 ounces of meat per bushel of live oysters, as compared with the cannery average of 38 ounces the same day. This approximate 10 percent increase from cultivated oysters would have supplied the cannery with an additional 70 cases per day at no extra production cost.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Heads List In
Silver-Fox Farms Census

Wisconsin has more silver-fox farms than any other State, according to a joint statement by the Bureau of the Census and the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

With 493 such farms out of a 38-State total of 2,655, Wisconsin's nearest rival is Michigan with 302 silver-fox farms that produced 34,332 pelts in 1939. Wisconsin's farms reported 101,439 pelts, out of a national total of 261,000.

The numbers of silver-fox farms were based on the 1940 census and represent the farms with silver-fox females on hand on the date of enumeration.

It is expected that data gathered from this census, first of the fur-farming industry, will prove valuable to fur farmers, dealers, and retailers who have heretofore had to base pre-season estimates of supply and demand on "guesses and hunches."

No silver-fox farms were reported in Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas. Less than three were reported from Alabama, Tennessee, and Rhode Island.

WASHINGTON

New State Deer Food Areas Will Aid Starving Animals

Refugee elk and deer slowly are moving from the mountain tops toward the valleys in search of food, but the State Game Commission is hopeful this winter that mass starvation will be avoided, reports the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The reason is 28,700 acres of land filled with plenty of deer food bought under Washington's Pittman-Robertson program. Situated in valleys where the animals normally congregate in winter, these lands are expected to take the pressure off farms, pastures, and forest areas which in severe winters are browsed bare. Unable to get enough food in these restricted areas, thousands of deer and elk perished in previous years.

Approval by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the purchase of an additional 1,100 acres on Oak Creek raised the total in that section to 1,400 acres. There are 7,600 acres in Sinlahekin, 8,700 acres on Squaw Creek, 6,150 acres on Tucannon, and 4,800 acres in Methow Valley. Officials said more land will be acquired in some areas as it becomes available at prices which the State Game Commission is justified in paying.

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New Salmon Project Shows Progress in Tulalip Creek

A project to establish a run of coho salmon in Tulalip Creek, a small stream that empties into Puget Sound near Everett, Wash., is showing considerable progress, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. This stream is blocked to migratory fish by a 26-foot power dam.

Since early in the spring of 1941 the Service has been cooperating with the Tulalip Indian Agency in the undertaking. From recommendations by Dr. James L. Wilding, aquatic biologist, who was assigned by the Service to make a survey of the stream to determine the feasibility of the proposal, it was concluded that the creek should be able to support a population of about 1,000 spawning fish.

Upon the basis of plans furnished by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Indian Service recently has completed construction of a fish ladder that will carry the entire normal flow of the creek and provide for the passage of both up- and down-stream migrants. A trap for down-stream migrants was built in the upper part of the ladder.

Early in December 30,000 3-inch marked coho salmon fingerlings were liberated in the creek. All of these were marked by fin excision. The dorsal and left ventral fins were removed from 15,000 fish donated by the Washington State Department of Fisheries and the dorsal and right ventral fins removed from a similar number obtained from the Federal hatchery at Quilcene.

Inasmuch as the stream was virgin to salmon, the project furnishes several possibilities for fishery research, including the survival of the two stocks of fish planted in the stream, time of seaward migration, ocean mortality, influence of a known population of fish upon the production and consumption of fish foods, and the determination of the carrying capacity of such a stream through studies of fish growth and space limitations.

Salvage Of Grand Coulee Fish Still In Progress

In connection with the Grand Coulee fish salvage program of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior,

the work of transporting salmon and steelhead trout from Rock Island Dam to the holding ponds at the Federal hatchery at Leavenworth is still being continued, reports the Service.

From April 1, the beginning of hauling operations for the season, to the week ended December 13, 1941, the number and species of salmon and steelhead trout trapped at Rock Island and hauled and liberated to localities below Grand Coulee Dam were as follows: 2,567 chinook salmon, 949 blueback salmon, 29 silver salmon, and 3,561 steelhead trout.

The number and species of salmon and trout hauled to each locality were as follows: Nason Creek: 1,252 chinook salmon and 899 steelhead trout; Leavenworth hatchery: 777 chinook salmon, 851 blueback salmon, 29 silver salmon, and 2,587 steelhead trout; Wenatchee River: 448 chinook salmon, 98 blueback salmon, and 2 steelhead trout.

FILLERS--On Birds, Mammals, And Fishes--FILLERS

Although the salmon fisheries of Alaska yield products comprising 90 percent of the value of all fishery products of the Territory, there are at least 12 other kinds of fish and shellfish taken in commercial quantities.

1,352 wild Canada geese and 41 hand-reared birds were marked with numbered bands in 1940-41.

Protection was afforded livestock, poultry, and game during the year by the taking of 122,941 predatory animals in cooperative control work, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service 1941 annual report.

Some parts of the skin of certain varieties of sharks when dried and hardened take a polish equal to that of stone, and bear a strong resemblance to the fossil coral porites.

Deposits in the Federal treasury from sales of big game and other products of national wildlife refuges totaled \$79,676.52 in 1940-41.

The weatherfish is a European loach and is said to exhibit uneasiness at the signs of an approaching storm. In certain parts of Europe weatherfish are often kept in bowls to serve as weather prophets.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials branded 5,000 seals on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, in 1940-41.

The nurse shark, a harmless shark of the warm seas which attains a length of 10 feet, is one of the species whose skin supplies the "shagreen" (fishskin leather) of commerce.

The swell shark found off the California coast, when captured has the habit of distending its stomach with air so that it can float belly upward on the surface of the water.